

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

LUIS ANGEL SIERRA : CIVIL ACTION
v. :
VERIZON WIRELESS : NO. 20-1257
:

SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE ORDER

Pursuant to the direction of the Honorable Mitchell S. Goldberg, a settlement conference will be held by video before the Honorable David R. Strawbridge on **Friday, January 22, 2021** commencing at **9:30 a.m.** **The Court will contact counsel with instructions to connect to the video platform.**

Any individual plaintiff or other person bringing a claim (counterclaim or third-party claim) is **required to appear by video**. Any individual defendant must also appear by video. All other entities must appear through a duly-authorized representative knowledgeable about the facts of the case and with full settlement authority. The Court will grant an exception to this requirement, particularly as it relates to individual defendants upon a written showing of good cause and exceptional circumstances.

The Court is mindful of the restrictions imposed by the current COVID-19 crisis and will make adjustments to this appearance as needed.

The Court fully expects that the parties have a serious interest in pursuing settlement. Prior to the conference, but not later than **January 5, 2021**, counsel for plaintiff is to set out to defendant a written good faith demand. The defendant is to respond to the demand in good faith on or before **January 8, 2021**, and is then to initiate a discussion with opposing counsel regarding the parties' settlement positions. Copies of the written demand and offer are to be sent to the Court. To the extent that any demands and/or offers have already been made, they are to be updated (even if the update is merely a confirmation of previous demands/offers) based upon the current status of the case and a serious re-evaluation of all issues potentially affecting settlement. The Court expects the parties to be fully prepared to discuss all issues relevant to the settlement process.

The parties are directed to submit to the Court on or before **January 13, 2021**, a settlement memorandum of no more than four (4) typed double-spaced pages. **Settlement conference memoranda are to be exchanged and submitted to chambers, but are not to be filed with the Clerk of Court.** If counsel feel further communication with the Court is necessary on an ex parte basis, they may provide the Court with a brief submission. If they do so, they are to advise all other counsel of the fact that they have done so.

The memorandum shall set out in the following in order:

1. The names, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses of counsel to appear at

the conference on behalf of the party;

2. The name of the party or the party's representative, including insurer if applicable (with title or position) to appear at the conference;
3. The status of any pending motions;
4. The status of discovery including a certification that the party has complied with its Fed. R. Civ. Pro. 26(a) obligations;
5. A brief statement of the factual and legal basis of the party's claims and/or defenses, including the elements and manner of proof;
6. A brief statement of the factual and legal basis of the party's damages, including the elements and manner of proof of their damages or, as appropriate, its position on damages claimed by any opposing party;
7. The last demand and/or offer; and
8. Any other matters that counsel believe may be relevant to settlement discussions.

**All submissions to the Court must be sent electronically to
Strawbridge_Chambers@paed.uscourts.gov.**

The Court finds that diagrams, photos, schematics and particularly relevant documents are often helpful and their submission is encouraged. If any such items are in color, the color copies are to be brought to the conference. If any documents are over five (5) pages in length, counsel shall highlight or otherwise draw particular attention to the critically relevant portion of the document. Counsel are required to review Judge Strawbridge's Standard Policy and Procedures pertaining to settlement on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania's website (<http://www.paed.uscourts.gov>).

BY THE COURT:

Date: December 29, 2020

/s/ David R. Strawbridge, USMJ
David R. Strawbridge
United States Magistrate Judge
267-299-7790 - telephone
267-299-5065 - facsimile